



Above: Frankie & Johnny

REVIEWER PAUL FISCHER'S RATING GUIDE

- ★★★★ A Must. Not to be missed
- ★★★ Highly recommended
- ★★ Average viewing
- ★ Hire a schlock video instead

Star Trek VI - The Undiscovered Country ****

Few film series have attracted as much attention as the Star Trek series. After 25 years and countless goodbyes, the characters of Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Scottie and all are finally being laid to rest in the last, and possibly the best, of the films. Shot under the taut direction of Nicholas Meyer, who helmed *Star Trek II - The Wrath Of Khan* and based on an original story idea by Leonard Nimoy, *Star Trek VI* takes the crew of the Enterprise on an unusual and controversial mission: to escort the Klingon ambassador safely to earth for immediate peace talks.

When the ambassador is mysteriously

Below: *Star Trek VI - The Undiscovered Country*



assassinated, blame is rested with Kirk who believes that someone is trying to sabotage this quest for peace and destroy him in the process.

The 'undiscovered country' referred to in the title is that abstract notion of peace we all crave, and *Star Trek VI* is a far more contemporary film than many of its predecessors. Nimoy derived his story from the end of the Cold War, and there are some interesting parallels between the two. It's a damn good piece of movie escapism, a rollercoaster ride of a popcorn movie, thanks to its wry, comic edge, the wonderful ensemble performances of both established and new cast members, and some superb special effects which are clever but not obtrusive. *Star Trek VI* is the fitting conclusion to a great series of films; this chapter could well be the greatest of them all.

Frankie & Johnny ***

Frankie is a cynical waitress who takes life as it comes. Having been hurt so often, she's built a protective wall around herself against relationships. Johnny is a petty crim (a forger actually) just released from prison. His life is empty and he's in desperate need to fill a void. When he acquires a job as a short order cook in the restaurant where Frankie works, he is immediately attracted to Frankie and is determined to win her.

Based on a popular play, Garry Marshall's film version is a softer treatment of the two-hander play, but still its romanticism and occasional honesty into human relationships makes for charming cinema. Pacino and Pfeiffer work well together and some of their scenes are magical. Stealing the film is brilliant character actress Kate Nelligan as Cora, one of Frankie's co-workers. She is hypnotic and her sense of comic timing really takes the film into new heights. Perhaps it's not the great film we were all expecting, but its sense of character and realism during these escapist-filled days is refreshing. *Frankie & Johnny* is engaging cinema neatly packaged for the adult film goer.